

# Beginning with God

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## How to use this book in group work

1. Identify the group (find 1-5 friends).
2. Make a clear commitment to one another to meet regularly (this may be 2 times a week at a certain location for 2 hours).
3. Select the place where you will be meeting.
4. When you meet:
  - a. Pray for God's guidance to learn to know his word.
  - b. If you have the mp3-player: Listen to the sound file while you follow the text in the green column of the book.
  - c. Otherwise just read the Zulu text aloud.
  - d. Read the same story in English (yellow column).
  - e. Discuss the questions in the book and also your own questions.
  - f. Write down your answers and comments, and share them with a leader or supervisor.

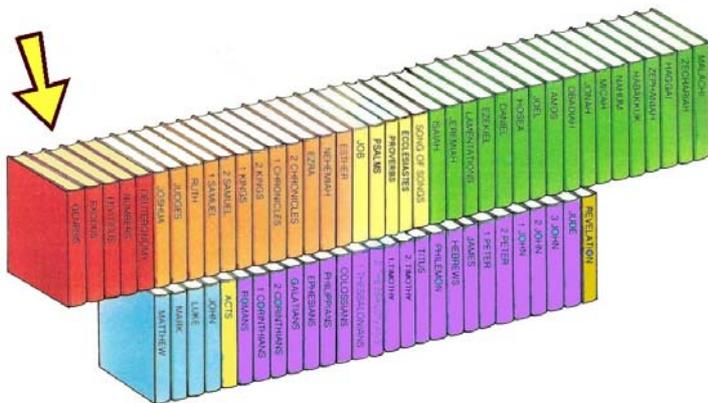
## Discover the Bible: The beginning

The Bible is like a whole library: 66 small books combined in one big book. In the illustration the top row is all the 39 Old Testament books, and the bottom row is the 27 New Testament books. [The colours illustrate the different categories](#), such as Law, History, Prophecy, etc.

It is a fantastic advantage to know all the Bible stories.

**In this study we will let you discover what happened from the time God created the world until the time of Abraham – Genesis chapter 1-24**

The purpose of this book is:



1. to let you discover the Bible events and meet the key characters;
2. to let you see how God created everything and called people to obey Him;
3. to train you finding Scripture passages and understand what you read.

All the Bible stories are printed in **English (yellow) and Zulu (green column)**.

## God is the Creator. He is almighty!

Have you ever wondered what the very first morning was like, and how everything started? Many people have. Also those who are not Christians. Some of them have made up their own creation myths; others have worked out a theory of evolution.

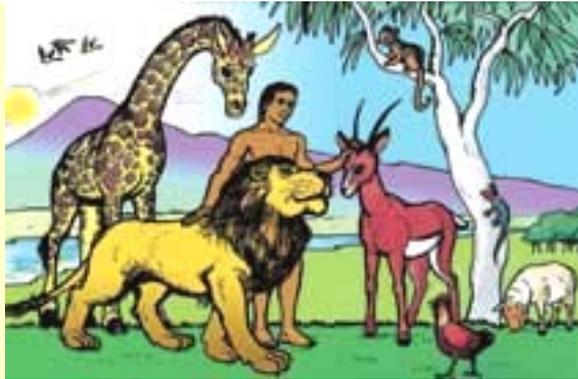
**As Christians we believe that God was the Creator.** We believe in a God whose abilities, knowledge and intentions by far exceed what we are able to grasp. God is able to do anything.

We also know that **the Devil is doing all he can to ruin God's plans.**

The Devil is evil. He is a liar and a deceiver.

Through this book you will come to know God, and also become aware how all the time the Devil tries to bring destruction, hardships/curses and death instead of the blessings and life God has in mind.

# Genesis: The book of beginnings



## Adam and the animals. *Genesis 1:1 – 2:14*

In the beginning this earth did not exist. Only God existed. There is only one God. He is Spirit. (We cannot see Him.) God has all power. He knows all things and He is everywhere. God created everything on earth and in the sky. He made man from the dust of the earth. God gave the man a spirit so he could know God. (All his thoughts and his desires agreed with God.) God called the man Adam. Adam gave names to all the animals which God had made. (God made all the spirits and the angels in heaven too.) Everything which God made was very good.

## 1- UAdam nezilwane (Genesis 1:1 – 2:14)

Ekuqaleni nguNkulunkulu yedwa owayekhona, akukho okunye okudaliweyo okwakukhona. Munye uNkulunkulu, futhi unguMoya. UNkulunkulu wazi izinto zonke futhi usezindaweni zonke. Lomhlaba esiwaziyo wawungekho. UNkulunkulu wadala zonke izinto emhlabeni nasesibhakabhakeni.

Wadala ukukhanya, waedala nesibhakbhaka. Kwasekulandela amafu nomhlaba. Wahlukanisa ulwandle nomhlaba owomile, lapho izithombo zaqala ukumila. UNkulunkulu wabe esenza ilanga, inyanga nezinkanyezi. Wayesedala zonke izinto eziphilayo emhlabeni nasolwandle. Lendoda esemfanekiseni nguAdam. Ngumuntu wokuqala kwabake babakhona. UNkulunkulu wabumba umuntu ngomhlabathi, Wayesephefumulela umoya wakhe kumuntu ukuze umuntu amazi uNkulunkulu. Imicabango yonke kanye nezifiso zakhe kwavumelana noNkulunkulu, umuntu wahamba noNkulunkulu. UNkulunkulu wabona ukuthi konke ayekwenzile kühle.



*Who created man and the world we live in?*

*How wil you describe God and the power He has?*

**Memory verse:** *Genesis 1:1 In the beginning God created the universe.*

Before God began his work of creation, it was dark everywhere.



*Read Genesis 1:3-4. What did God say? What happened? How did God find the result?*

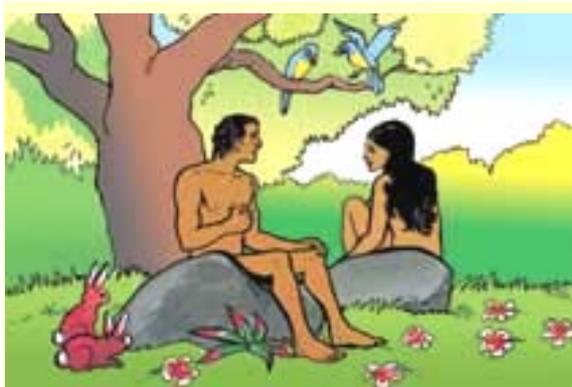
This is what the Bible tells us happened on “the first day”.

- On the second day God gave the earth its shape, which is like an orange. He separated the earth from the sky.
- On the third day the lands, seas, plants and trees were created.
- On the fourth day the sun, moon and stars were created.
- On the fifth day, birds and fish were created.
- On the sixth day, animals and the first man and woman were created. God breathed the spirit of life into them.

## In the image of God

The creation story tells us that both man and woman were created in “the image of God” (Gen 1:26-27).

“In the image of God” does not mean “to look like God” but instead to have some of the same abilities as God has. One of these is the ability to make a choice: To say I will or I will not. God gave man authority to choose. What if man decided to rebel against God?



### **A wife for Adam. Genesis 2:15-25**

God put Adam in a beautiful (fertile) garden and he cared for it. There were male and female creatures of every kind, but there was no suitable companion for the man. So God caused Adam to fall into a deep sleep. Then He took a rib out of Adam’s side. God made a woman from Adam’s rib, and He brought her to the man to be his companion. The man and the woman were naked but they

### **2- UAdam ufumana unkosikazi**

(Genesis 1:27-28) (Genesis 2:15-25)

UNkulunkulu wambeka uAdam ensimini enhle, e - Eden, ukuba ayilime, ayigcine. Kwabe kukhona izinhlobo ezahlukene zemithi kanye nomuthi wokuphila.

UAdam wayenazo zonke izithelo anokuzidla.

UNkulunkulu wanikeza uAdam ithuba lokuthi aqambe amagama azozonke izinyoni nezilwane.

Kuzozonke izidalwa, kwabe kukhona eyeduna neyensikazi.

Izilwane zabe zingamesabi umuntu futhi zingamenzi lutho.

UAdam wayengenaye umsizi onjengaye.

Ngakhoke uNkulunkulu wamenzela owesifanzane ukuba abe ngumsizi wakhe.

UNkulunkulu wehlisela uAdam ubuthongo obukhulu. Wayesehipha

were not ashamed. They could speak to God as friends. There was no sorrow, death or evil in that wonderful place.



*Genesis 2:20*



*What did Adam miss in the beautiful garden?*

ubambo ohlangothini luka Adam wenza ngalo owesifazane.

UNkulunkulu waletha owesifazane endodeni. Owesifazane nowesilisa babehamba-ze bobabili, kepha benganamahloni.

Babekhuluma noNkulunkulu njengabangani, lungekho usizi nobubi endaweni ababekuyo.

## Why take the risk of giving man a choice?

Why did God not create a person that would automatically do the right thing? It would have been easy for Him to do so. And no sin would ever have come between God and man.

We can only guess, but just imagine that your best friend always said yes to whatever you said. How much would you enjoy being together with him in the long run? It would just be an echo, not another person. It would be like a robot or machine. And you cannot have fellowship with a machine. The best fellowship you can enjoy happens with somebody who has a mind of his or her own, but still loves you dearly. That was the kind of fellowship God wanted. Therefore it was necessary to let man have a free will.

## What about the evolution theory?

The evolution theory is one of man's attempts to explain why we are here and how it might have happened.

If you believe in God, you can easily accept that God created everything for his eternal purpose. However, if you don't believe in God, you MUST find another way to answer the question of life.

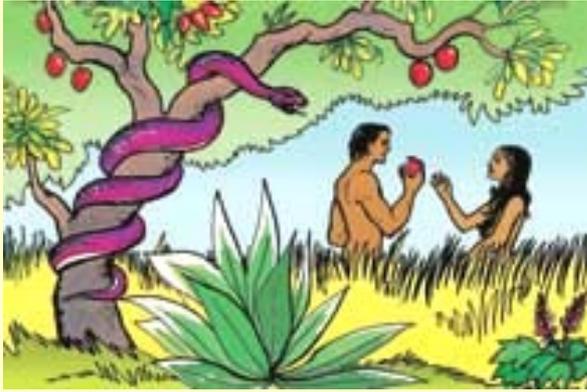
The evolution theory is a modern attempt to do so. It is trying to arrange and select the things that we see and know in such a way that the whole evolution concept might appear logical and believable.



*Why didn't God create in such a way that atheist scientists could find no observations at all, that could be used to support a theory of evolution?*

## The fall of man

God gave man a free will. Even if He knew man could make wrong choices, He gave him the authority to choose for himself. And man fell!



### **The snake in the garden. Genesis 3:1-8**

God told Adam, “You are free to eat of every tree in the garden, but you must not eat from the tree of good and evil, for when you eat of it you will surely die.” Satan was an angel in heaven, but he turned against God. He became the enemy of God. Satan came to the woman in the form of a beautiful snake. He lied to the woman. He told her that she would not die. He persuaded her to eat from the tree. The woman gave some of the fruit to Adam and he ate it too. They had disobeyed God and they couldn’t know God the same way any more. They became ashamed that they were naked, and they tried to hide from God.

### **3- Inyoka Ensimini (Genesis 2:16) (Genesis 3) (Isaya 14:12)**

UNkulunkulu wamyala uAdam wathi: “Ungadla kuyo yonke imithi yensimu ngokuthanda kwakho, kepha ungadli emthini wakwazi okuhle nokubi, ngoba uma uke wadla kuwo uyokufa nokufa.” Kepha uSathane wamkhohlisa unkosikazi kaAdam. Usathane wabe eyingelosi kaNkulunkulu kepha wahlubuka kuNkulunkulu owayemdalile.

USathane wayefuna ukuba mkhulu kuno Nkulunkulu. Ngakhoke uNkulunkulu wamxosha ezulwini, uSathane wayeseba isitha sikaNkulunkulu.

Isikhohlakali esiwuSathane seza kowesifazane ngesimo senyoka enhle. Usathane wamkhohlisa owesifazane. Owesifazane wayesevuma ukudla kolomuthi uNkulunkulu ayebayale ukuthi ungadliwa.

USathane watshela owesifazane ukuthi, abayikufa uma bewudlile umuthi. UEva wawudla umuthi wabuye wanika noAdam isithelo sawo futhi ukuba adle. Lapho sebezidlile izithelo zomuthi, babe sebeyazi ukuthi bahamba-ze. Bazithungela amaqabunga omkhiwane, bazenzela imibhinco, bazam nokucashela uNkulunkulu

From that time on man was evil and sinful. When we fell, we stopped being sinless and innocent in God’s sight, and became evil in the eyes of a holy God. In human history, this happened when Eve and Adam ate the fruit God told them not to eat. The fall also brought death into the world.

God did not give up his dream: **to have fellowship with man**. So even if the fall was a total disaster for life together in the garden of Eden, God so loved the world that He was willing to send Jesus to die for our sins. (More about this later.)

## God made a covenant (an agreement) with Adam

A covenant is a set of conditions and promises between two parties. Even in the process of driving Adam out of Eden, God gave him a wonderful promise. But also some conditions to abide with.



*What does God promise Adam? Which conditions apply? (Gen 2:16-17)*



### **Adam and Eve outside the garden. Genesis 3:14-24**

God sent Adam and the woman out of the garden. He said to Adam, “Because you ate of the tree, the land will be cursed. You will have to work hard to make it produce food.” God said to the woman, “I will increase your trouble in giving birth.” And to the snake He said, “Because you have done this, you are cursed, you will crawl on your belly.” The snake became man’s enemy. Adam called the woman Eve (which means Life). Eve had children who are the ancestors of us all. We are still separated from God, and we all disobey God even as Adam did. But God promised that one day He would send a Man who would defeat Satan. That man is able to bring us back to God. The Man is the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **4- UAdam no Eva ngaphandle kwensimu (Genesis 3:14-24)**

Kulomfanekiso siyabona ukuthi kwenzekani lapho uAdam eqa umyalo kaNkulunkulu. UNkulunkulu wajezisa ngokweqa umyalo wakhe, kodwa waqala ngenyoka wathi: “Ngoba wenze loku uqalekiswe ngaphezu kwazonke izilwane ezifuyiwe nezasendle.”

Kusukela ngalesosikhathi uSathane waba isitha sikaNkulunkulu nesomuntu. UNkulunkulu wayeshilo ekuqaleni ukuthi isizukulwane sika Adam no Eva, inkosi uJesu Krestu, siyakumehlula uSathane.

UJesu wakwenza loko ngesikhathi efela izono zethu nangesikhathi evuka ekufeni. UNkulunkulu wathi kulowesifazane: Ngizokwandisa ubuhlungu ekukhulelweni nase kubeletheni kwakho. UNkulunkulu wathi ku Adam ngoba ulalele inkosikazi yakho wadla nakulomuthi, ngiyawuqalekisa umhlaba. Ngakho-ke uzowusebenza kanzima ukuze ukukhiphele ukudla okuzokwanela wena nondeni wakho uze ufe. UNkulunkulu wakhiphela u Adam ngaphandle kwensimu.

UAdam waqamba inkosikazi ngokuthi u Eva okusho ukuthi “ukuphila”. Wathola abantwana baka Adam. (Babe amadlozi abantu bonke.)



*What do you think was the best of the things that Adam and Eve enjoyed in the garden?*

*What do you think was the biggest problem for them after being thrown out of the garden?*

*Was there any hope?*

UAdam noEva nabobonke abantu abeza ngemva kwabo banobubi kubona yibo lobu obubahlukanisa noNkulunkulu kanye nabo uqoko.

Sonke asimulaleli uNKulunkulu; ukungalaleli kuyisono. Ngoba uma sona siyafa.

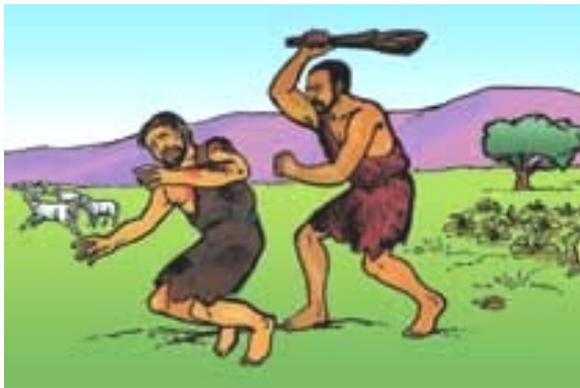
Kodwa likhona ithemba, uJesu ophilayo ukhona ukusisiza emandleni esono kanye noSathane.

## From Eden to the Flood

The Bible mentions some selected people and events between the time of Adam and the Flood (1 600 years). For example there was **the first murder**. Adam and Eve had many sons and daughters but we mostly hear about two of them: Abel and Cain.

Abel became a shepherd and offered one of his firstborn lambs to God.

Cain became a farmer and offered some of the produce from the farm to



God.

God knows the attitudes of the heart, and he accepted Abel's offering, but not Cain's. Therefore Cain became angry with God and jealous of his brother. He became so bitter that he ended up killing his brother. God punished him by driving him away.

Then God gave Adam and Eve another

son, Seth, who replaced Abel. The redeemer of the world would come from Seth's family (Luk 3:38).



*The Bible does not explain why God accepted Abel's offer and not Cain's. So we can only guess. What reasons could you imagine?*

Among other people mentioned is Enoch, who did not die, and Methuselah who became the oldest man who ever lived.



*What do we know about Enoch's life? (Gen 5:21-25)*

*How old was Methuselah? (Gen 5:27).\_\_\_\_\_*

# The big Flood



*Read Genesis 6:6-7.*

This must have been one of the darkest moments in history. God at first created people because of his desire to have fellowship with them, but now He even regretted that He had created them. The earth had become completely corrupt so God sent a great flood to punish sinful mankind. But He would not break his promise that He would one day send a saviour. So He saved the lives of Noah and his family as well as two of every kind of living creature in an ark (a large wooden ship).



## **Noah and the great boat.**

*Genesis 6:1-22*

The people who descended from Adam followed the ways of Satan. Only one man tried to please God. His name was Noah. God said to Noah, "I have decided to destroy all mankind because the earth is full of their evil deeds. Build a boat for yourself. I am going to send a flood on the earth to destroy every living thing. Go into the boat with your wife and your sons and their wives. Take into the boat with you a male and a female of every kind of animal and bird, in order to keep them alive." Noah did everything that God commanded.

## **5- UNoah nomkhumbu omkhulu**

(Genesis 6:1 – 7:5)

Izingane nika Adam no Eva kanye nesizukulwane esalandela saba siningi kakhulu.

Balandela izindlela zika Sathane benza okubi kodwa.

UNkulunkulu wazisola ngokwenza kwakhe umuntu.

Inye kuphela indoda eyazama ukwanelisa uNkulunkulu. Igama layo uNoah.

Ngelinye ilanga uNkulunkulu wakhuluma naye wathi: "Ngizobhubhisa wonke umuntu ngoba umhlaba usugcwele udlame ngenxa yabo."

Zakhele unkhumbi omkhulu.

Ngizoletha izikhukhula zizobhubhisa yonke into ephilayo.

Kodwa ngizokwenza isithembiso nawe.

Ngena emkhunjini wena nenkosikazi yakho, amadodana akho namakhosikaze awo.

Emkhunjini wakho faka izilwane zesilisa nesifazane kanye nezinyoni, ukuze zithole ukuphila.

UNkulunkulu wamtshela uNoah ukuthi awakhe kanjani umkhumbi.

UNoah wenza njengoba uNkulunkulu emtshelile kwathi ngesikhathi akha



*Read about the ark below, and try to imagine the size of it. Compare it to a football field!*

umkhumbi, wayeloku ebatshela ukuthi uNkulunkulu uzobhubhisa umhlaba kodwa abantu bazange bayeke ukona.

## The ark

The ark was a huge ship, about 150 meter long, 25 meter wide, and 15 meter high. (compare it to the size of a soccer field). It had three decks and was divided into compartments. All the measurements have been added up to show that there was room in the ark for 7 000 kinds of animals.

The Flood covered the entire world. It rained for 40 days, and after the rain stopped, another 150 days passed before the ark rested on the 5 000 meter high Ararat mountain 300 kilometer north of the ancient city of Nineveh.



**The great Flood.** *Genesis 7:1-24*  
Noah warned the people that God would destroy them but they would not turn from their evil ways. Noah and his family and two of every creature went into the boat. God shut them in. Then the rain began to fall. It rained for forty days and forty nights. Springs of water came from under the ground, and the whole earth was covered with a great flood. Every person, animal and bird died except for Noah and all those in the boat.

**6- Izikhukhula** (Genesis 7:6-23)  
UNKulunkulu uyazigcina izithembiso zakhe.

UNoah nomndeni wakhe kanye nezilwane bangena emkhunjini. UNkulunkulu wavala umnyango wabavalela ngaphakathi.

Emva kwensuku eziyisikhombisa imvula yaqala yana. Yana ubusuku nemini obungamashumi amane. Iziphethu zaqhuma ngaphanzi komhlaba, umhlaba wonke wambozwa amanzi. Bonke abantu izilwane nezinyoni okwangungaphandle komkhumbi kwafa.

Abantu abaphendukanga. Basenezono, (isizwe esonakele), balandela uSathane, abafuni ukulalela uNkulunkulu.

UNKulunkulu uyasitshela ngezwi lakhe, iBhayibheli, uthi ngelinye ilanga uJesu uzoza azokwahlulela izono zawo wonke umuntu.

Kodwa uNkulunkulu wasinika indlela yokubalekela konke kulabo abakholwa futhi balalele Yena.

## Age of some key people, before and after the Flood

ADAM 930 years (Gen 5:5)

SETH 912 years (Gen 5:8)

ENOSH 905 years (Gen 5:11)

ENOCH 365 years (Gen 5:23)

METHUSELAH 969 years (Gen 5:27)

LAMECH 777 years (Gen 5:31)

NOAH 950 years (Gen 9:29)



SHEM 600 years (Gen 11:10, 11)

EBER 464 years (Gen 11:16, 17)

TERAH 205 years (Gen 11:32)

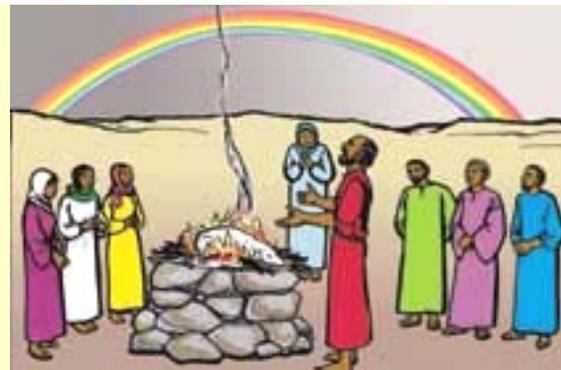
ABRAHAM 175 years (Gen 25:7)

ISAAC 180 years (Gen 35:28)

JACOB 147 years (Gen 47:28)

JOSEPH 110 years (Gen 50:26)

As you can see from the model, the people who lived before the Flood had an average lifespan of about 900 years while the ages of people after the Flood dropped rapidly and gradually levelled off.



### **The rainbow and God's promise.** *Genesis 8:13-22*

The rain stopped and after a year the ground dried out. Noah and his family and all the animals came out of the boat. Noah offered a sacrifice to God and God was pleased. God put a rainbow in the sky and He said, "I will never again destroy all living beings

### **7- Uthingo lwenkosazane nesithembiso Sikankulunkulu**

(Genesis 7:24 – 9:17)

UNoah nenkosikazi yakhe kanye nazonke izilwane bahlala emkhunjini isikhathi esingaphezu konyaka.

Ekugcineni imvula yanqamuka amanzi oma, bonke baphuma emkhunjini.

UNoah wakha i altari, njongoba ubona la.

Wanikela ngezilwane ezishisela uNkulunkulu ekwi Altari.

UNkulunkulu wabajabula ngaloko wabeka uthingo lwenkosazane

wayesithembisa ukuthi ngeke aphinde awubhubhise umhlaba ngamanzi.

Uthingo lwenkosazane

olokusikhumbuza ngesithembiso

with a flood. Whenever the rainbow appears I will remember my promise to you.” Friends, when you see a rainbow remember this too. God will judge the world again. Next time He will destroy the world with fire. However, those who believe and obey God need not fear. God has given us a way of escape and that Way is the Lord Jesus Christ.

sikaNkulunkulu.  
Khumbula isithembiso sikaNkulunkulu, kodwa futhi khumbula ukuthi uNkulunkulu usazowehlulela umhlaba. Ngokulandelayo uzowubhubhisa ngomlilo.  
Labo abamthembayo futhi abamlalelayo akudingekile ukuthi babenokwesaba ngokuzokwenzeka. Lalela inkosi uJesu Krestu ukuze ungabhubhiswa.

## God’s covenant with Noah

God’s covenant (agreement) with Noah was about the respect of human life and good use of the earth.



*What has been added or changed compared to God’s covenant with Adam?*

### Noah’s descendants:

As we read in the Bible, the families of the sons of Noah were the beginning of all the first ethnic groups upon the earth. Chapter 10 of Genesis lists a total of 70 individual founders of nations or ethnic groups. Here is how the Bible divides them by the places where they lived:

The duties were: (1) that blood should not be eaten (v. 4), (2) that murder would be punished by death(v. 6), (3) that the earth must be filled with people (v. 7). The promise was that the earth shall never again be punished by a flood like this one. The rainbow was the sign of God’s covenant with Noah (vv. 9-17). Although the details of the covenant with Noah are no longer fitting in the new covenant, the main principle which still applies is that human life must be protected at all times.

### Shem’s descendants: Central nations

Shemites included Jews, Assyrians, Syrians, and Elamites in the north Euphrates Valley and its borders.

### Ham’s descendants: Southern nations

Hamites went southward. The names given seem to point to South and Central Arabia, Egypt, East Mediterranean Sea area and East Africa. At one point there was a great movement to Egypt, but Canaan (son of Ham) settled in the land later called Israel.

## Japheth's descendants: Northern nations

Japhethites went northward, and settled in the areas around the Black and Caspian Seas. They became the Caucasian or white races of Europe and Asia.



In the map above you can see some of the “Biblical countries” (Middle East) and you can see names of the descendants of Noah’s 3 sons.

In the second map you can see where Noah’s ark ended its journey and you can see the next place we are going to hear about: Babel. This was where they tried to build a very high tower.



 Use the map to find out what the modern names of the countries are where these events took place.

# The tower at Babel



## The tower of Babel.

*Genesis 11:1-9*

The sons of Noah had many children. God told them to go to live all over the earth, but the people did not want to separate. They decided to build a city with a tower that would reach the sky. God saw their disobedience and their pride, and He said, “These are all one people and they speak one language. Let us go down and mix up their languages.” Look at the people in the picture. They cannot understand one another. They had to stop building the city and go to live in different places. It was man’s disobedience which caused so many languages. Disobedience separates people from each other, and disobedience separates people from God.

## 8- Umphongolo Wase Bhabheloni

(Genesis 11:1-9)

Bonke abantu abasemhlabeni bayisizukulwane SAMadodana amathathu kaNoah.

UNkulunkulu wabatshele ukuthi ababe nezingane futhi bahlale noma kuphi emhlabeni.

Bonke abantu bakhuluma ulimi olulodwa futhi bangafuna ukusabalala wonke unhlaba.

Abamlalelanga uNkulunkulu futhi bakhetha ukukwaka idolobha elinebhilidi elifika esibhakabhakeni.

UNkulunkulu wabona idolobha kanye nebhilidi. Wabuye wabona ukungalaleli kanye nokuzikhukhumeza kwabo.

UNkulunkulu wathi. Bonke laba bantu futhi bakhuluma ulimi olulodwa.

Ashleni siyobaxubela izilimi khona bengeke besazwana. Kulomfanekiso abantu ngeke besaphinde bazwane.

Bayeka ukwakha idolobha kodwa baya kohlala ezindaweni ezahlukene.

Ngenxa yokungalaleli kwabo yikho sesinezilimi eziningi ezahlukene.

Uma sona, izono zisihlukanisa noNkulunkulu futhi zihlukanisa nabantu.

Asimhloniphe futhi simthembe njalo uNkulunkulu.



*Why do you think it was the languages that were confused?*

*How many languages do you think exist in the world today?*

In a few pages we will continue the story about Abraham, but first we will hear about a man called Job.

## The story of Job

Job worshipped and honoured God. But even so his life became very difficult for a number of years. But God did not forget him!



### **Job worships God. Job 1:1-12**

The man in this picture is Job. He worshipped and sacrificed only to the one true God. He did not follow Satan's ways. Job had many children and servants, and large herds of animals. God had caused Job to become very rich. One day God told Satan that He was pleased with Job. But Satan said that Job only worshipped God in order to be rich. He said to God, "If You take away everything that Job has, he will curse You." God knew that Satan lied. He knew that Job would worship Him even if he were poor. So God let Satan take everything from Job to prove that Job was a good man.



*Look at the picture.  
What is Job doing?*

*What is his purpose of doing this?*

### **9- UJobe ukhonza Unkulunkulu (Jobe 1:1-12)**

Lapha sibona indoda igama layo uJobe. Unikela ngokushisela uNkulunkulu umhlatshelo.

UJobe ukhonza uNkulunkulu weqiniso futhi ngeke azilandele izindlela zika Sathane.

UJobe wayenamadodana ayisikhombisa namadodakazi amathathu wayebenzela abantwana bakhe iminikelo.

Wacela intethelelo kuNkulunkulu, uma bedelele uNkulunkulu nahoma ngayiphi indlela.

UNkulunkulu wayanelisekile ngo Jobe. Wambusisa wamenza ukuthi aghubekele phambili.

UJobe wayenemfuyo enkulu futhi enezisebenzi eziningi.

Ngelinye ilanga uNkulunkulu watshela uSathane ukuthi wanelisekile ngo Jobe kodwa uSathane waqala ukusola uJobe wathi uJobe ukhonza uNkulunkulu ukuze anothe.

USathane wathi kuNkulunkulu: Uma ungase uthathe konke loku uJobe anako angakuqalekisa.

UNkulunkulu wayazi ukuthi uSathane unamanga ngoba uJobe wayeyindoda eqotho futhi efuna ukugculisa uNkulunkulu. Unkulunkulu wamvumela usathane ukuthi amthathe ekonke uJobe qyenakho ukuze amhlole.

## Job in mourning



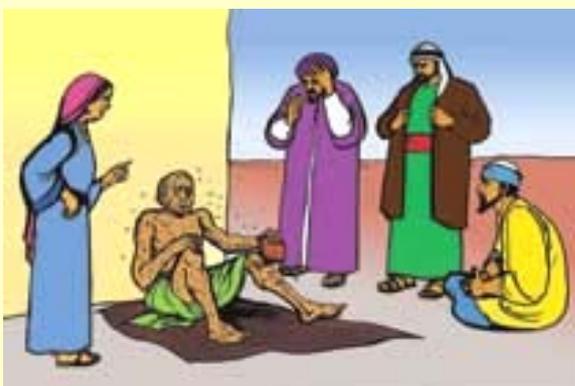
*Job 1:13-22*

One day Job's servants brought him terrible news. Job's enemies had stolen his oxen and donkeys and killed his servants. Lightning had killed all his sheep and their shepherds. Bandits had stolen all of his camels. Another servant brought the worst news of all, saying, "Your children were feasting when a storm blew the house down and killed them all." Job shaved his head and fell to the ground. He said, "The Lord gave, and now He has taken away. May his Name be praised!" In all these troubles Job did not curse God.

### 10- UJobe uyalila (Jobe 1:13-22)

Lesisithombe sikhombisa usuku olubuhlungu lukaJobe. Izisebenzi zamlethela izindaba ezimbi. Isisebenzi sokuqala safika sigijima sizomtshela ukuthi izitha sezibulale isisebenzi sakhe zase zintshontsha zonke izinkomo nezimbongolo. Singaqedi leso kwafika esinye. Sathi umlilo usushise izimvu nomalusi, konke kwafa. Esesithathu sathi izigebengu zabahlasela zantshontsha wonke amakameli. Esinye saletha ezibuhlungu kakhulu: Izingane bezidla ndawonye ngesikhathi izulu lishaya indlu zafa zonke. UJobe wagunda ikhanda wawa phansi ekhala wathi, "UNKulunkulu uphile uNKulunkulu uthathile. Malidunyiswe igama lika NKulunkulu." Yize sekwenze konke loko uJobe akazange one ngokugxeka uNKulunkulu.

## Job suffers



*. Job 2:1 – 41:34*

### 11- UJobe uyahlupheka (Jobe 2:1 – 41:34)

USathane wabona ukuthi uJobe usamhlonipha UNkulunkulu, uSathane wayesethi kuNKulunkulu: Uma ungase uhlukumeze umziba ka Jobe, uJobe angakuqalekisa. UNkulunkulu wavumela uSathane ukuba amhlole futhi uJobe: uSathane waletha isifo esibi sesikhumba

Satan said to God, “If you hurt Job’s body he will curse You!” So God allowed Satan to test Job again. Satan brought a terrible skin disease on Job. Job’s wife said to him, “Why don’t you curse God and die?” But Job refused and said to her, “Shall we accept good from God and not trouble too?” Three friends came and talked with Job for many days. They said that God was punishing Job for some evil he had done. Then God Himself appeared to them. God showed them that they did not understand. God is unlimited in power. He knows all things. He knows what is best for us, and He alone can choose a difficult or an easy life for us.

kuJobe. UJobe waphumela ngaphandle wayokhuhla izilonda ngocezu lwebhodwe eliphukile. UNkosikazi wakhe wathi: “Qalekisa uNkulunkulu ufe!” Kodwa uJobe waphendula wathi: Kumele samukele okuhle kuphela yini kuNkulunkulu hayi okubi? Abangani abathathu bakaJobe beza bazokhuluma naye izinsuku eziningi. Bazama ukuthola izizathu zokuhlupheka kukaJobe. Bathi wenze into embi yingakho uNkulunkulu emjezisa. UJobe akavumelananga naloko ababekusho. Ngakho-ke wabheka kuNkulunkulu akazange ambalekele. Unkulunkulu wayesekhombisa ubukhulu nolwazi lwazo zonke izinto kuJobe.

## Job is restored



*Job 42:1-17*

When Job saw the greatness of God he was ashamed that he had doubted God or had talked of his own goodness. Job prayed for his friends because they did not understand the ways of God. Then God made Job wealthy and healthy again. His friends came to feast with him and to bring him gifts. God gave him seven sons and three

### 12- UJobe uyaphiliswa

(Jobe 42:1-17)

Kulesisithombe uJobe usephilile, usecebile futhi. Ngizonixoxela ukuthi lokhu kwenzeka kanjani. Lapho uJobe ebona uNkKulunkulu wazi ukuthi mkhulu kangakanani wase ephenduka. UNkulunkulu wayesekhuluma nomunye wabagxeki baka Jobe ogama lakhe lingu Eliphaz: “Nginidinelwe wena nabangani bakho ababili ngoba anikhulumanga ngami lokho okulungileyo, njengoba isisebenzi sami uJobe enzile.” UNkulunkulu wabatshela ukuthi bahambise umnikelo oshisiweyo kuJobe. Isisebenzi sakhe uJobe uyobathandazela. UNkulunkulu wathi futhi uyobathethelela. UJobe wabathandazela ngempela futhi

beautiful daughters. He lived to see many of his descendants, and he died a very old man. Friends, God knows why you may suffer in this life. Remember, God loves us and only wants the best for us. He wants us to trust Him so that we may have victory over Satan through the Lord Jesus Christ.



*Did Job do anything bad that caused God's punishment on him?*

*What kind of suffering did he experience?*

*Why was he suffering?*

*How was he rewarded?*

uNkulunkulu wawamkela umthandazo wakhe. Emva kwalokho uNkulunkulu wamphilisa wamenza waceba futhi. ABangani bakaJobe beza bazobusa naye edilini bamlethela nezipho. Unkulunkulu wamnika amadodana ayisikhombisa namadodakazi amathathu amahle.

Wahlala ephila wabona isizukulwane sakhe waze washona esemdala kakhulu. UNkulunkulu ufuna ukuthi simthembe sibekezele uma sisekuhluphekeni. UNkulunkulu uyazi sihlupheke-lani njengoba siphila. Uphethe zonke izinto ezenzekayo Khumbula ukuthi uNkulunkulu usithanda sonke futhi ufuna okuhle kulabo abakhonzayo.

## Introduction to Abraham, forefather of the Israelites

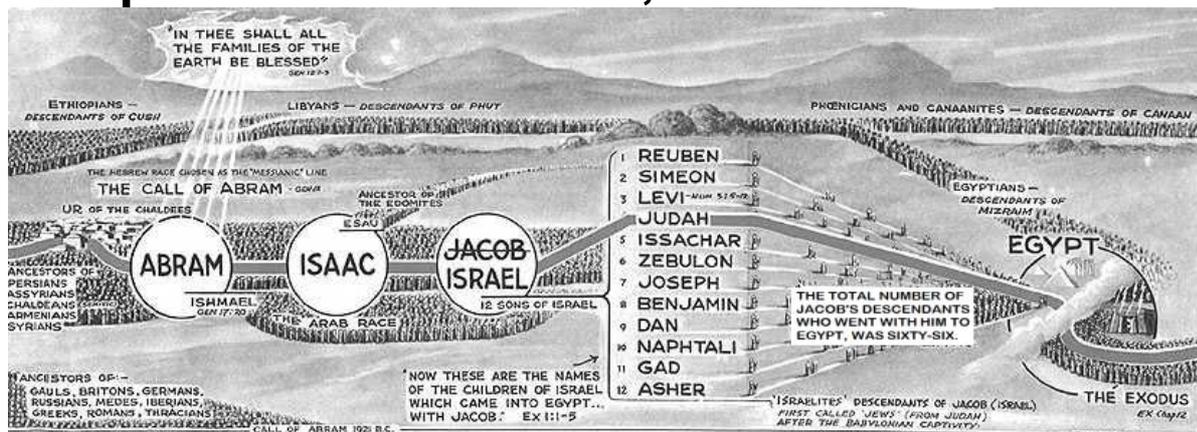
Let me tell you about a man called Abraham. He obeyed God, and through him many people have been blessed.

Bangani, wothi nginitshela ngedoda ebizwa ngokuthi u-Abram. Yamlalela uNkulunkulu futhi ngenxa yayo abantu abaningi babusiswa. Zilungiselele ukubuka isithome esilandelayo uma uzaw lomsindo.

Abraham became the father of Isaac, who became the father of Jacob. Jacob's name was changed to Israel, and therefore all who descended from him were called Israelites.

Notice: Sometimes the Israelites are referred to as "Hebrews" and sometimes as "Jews". But we are still talking about the same people.

# The patriarchs: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob



Look at the picture. Can you find the names of Jacob's 12 sons?.

## Abraham



### Abraham leaves his home.

Genesis 12:1 – 13:4

One day God spoke to Abraham saying, "Leave your country and your father's house, and go to a land which I will show you. I will make you into a great nation. Through you God will bless all people on earth." Abraham believed God's promise and did as He said. He took his wife and his servants and all he owned. He travelled for many days until he reached the land of Canaan. There God said to him, "This is the land I

### 13- U-Abram ushiya ikhaya lakhe

(Genesis 12:1 – 13:4)

Kulesisithombe ubona indoda ebizwa ngokuthi u-Abram, inkosikazi yayo uSarai, umshana wayo uLot kanye nezisebenzi. Bathatha uhambo olude ngoba uNkulunkulu wakhuluma naye wathi:

"Shiya izwe lakho, abantu bakho kanye nomuzi kababa wakho uye ezweni engizokukhombisa lona. Ngizokunika isizwe esikhulu futhi ngibusise nabantu bonke emhlabeni bazobusiswa ngenxa yakho." UAbram wasikholwa isethembiso sika Nkulunkulu. Yena nababezohamba naye bathatha konke okwabo bahamba izinsuku eziningi baze bayofika ezweni lase Khanana. UNkulunkulu wazibonakalisa kuAbram. UNkulunkulu wathi: "Ozalweni lakho ngizonikela ngalendawo.

UAbram eshambe lonke lelozwe, wathi efika endaweni yase Negev kwaba khona indlala ezweni, kwangungasekho ukudla abangakudla (isikhathi sendlala).

Kwadingeka ukuthi yena nabantu baye

am going to give to your descendants.”

kwelinye izwe, e-Egypt, ukuyofuna ukudla. Emva kwesikhathi wabuyela eKhanana, ngoba wayekholwa yilokhu uNkulunkulu ayethembise kona. UNkulunkulu wayesithembise impilo entsha kanye nendawo ezulwini. Njengo Abram kunfanele silalele UNkulunkulu, ukuze sithole lokhu uNKulunkulu akuthembisile.



*Read Genesis 11:10-32 before you continue.*



*Who moved/trekged from Ur, and how were they related?*

It was through Abraham’s descendants that the Jewish nation would arise, and One of those descendants would be the Saviour, not only for the Jews but for the whole world.

### The promise

God promised to give Abraham a son through his wife Sarah who was barren (unable to bear children). Through this son, a chosen nation would arise and also an uncountable number of descendants, and One of those descendants would be a blessing to all the nations in the world.

### Where Abraham came from – and where he went

Abraham lived in the city of Ur (capital of the ancient kingdom of Sumer) sometime around 2000 BC. God called Abraham to leave his home and go to a new land that God would show him. The Bible traces Abraham’s steps from Ur to Haran (north of Canaan), through the land of Canaan, into Egypt, and back into Canaan (which later became Israel).



It was with Abraham that God established a very important covenant. The covenant has two very different parts, so some people talk about two separate covenants. **One covenant was the covenant of circumcision.** The condition was that Abraham and his descendants should

circumcise all male children, and the promise was a land and prosperity for the Hebrew people in the land of Canaan if they would continue to obey God.

**The other covenant** was the **covenant of faith**. The condition was complete obedience to what God said and the promise was a future Saviour and spiritual blessings that would reach to all peoples of the world.



**Abraham and Lot. Genesis 13:5-18**

Abraham had a nephew called Lot. He went with Abraham to Canaan. Abraham and Lot both had large herds of animals. The herdsmen of Abraham and the herdsmen of Lot quarrelled because there was not enough pasture for them all. So Abraham said to Lot, “Let us not quarrel; let us separate. Choose any part of the land you want.” Lot wanted the best land for himself and his herds so he chose the fertile river valley. He went to live near a city called Sodom. Then God spoke to Abraham again, saying, “All the land you see I will give to you and to your descendants forever.”

**14- UAbram no Loti (Genesis 13:5-18)**

UAbram no Loti bahlala ndawonye eKhanana futhi babenemfuyo eningi kangangoba amadlelo ayengasanele kulendawo eyodwa.

Ngalokho abelusi baka Loti nabaka Abram baxabana.

UAbram wathi kuLoti: “Makungabi khona ukuxabana phakathi kwethu sobabili naphakathi kwabelusi bethu ngoba thina singabandawonke.” UAbram watshela uLoti ukuthi akhethe noma iyiphi indawo ayifunayo.

ULoti wafuna yena nomhlambi wakhe indawo enhle kakhulu, wakhetha indawo evundile yasemfuleni iJordan, futhi lapho kunedolobha lokuhlala. ULoti wahamba wayohlala esigodini sase Sodom.

Abantu bse Sodom babonakele kabi.

Babe ngamanelisi uNkulunkulu.

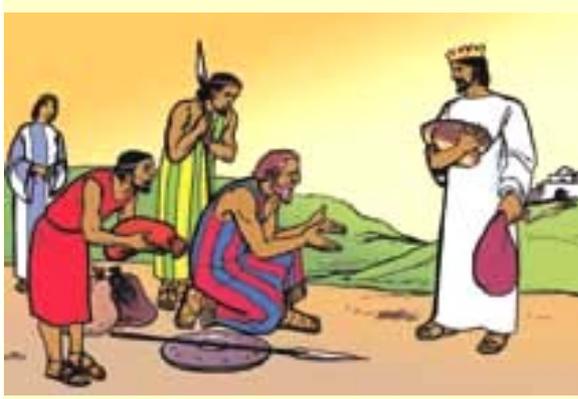
UAbram wahlala eKhanana uNkulunkulu wakhuluma naye futhi.

UNKulunkulu wathi: “Yonke lendawo oyisebenzisayo, Ngizokunika yona wena nesizukulwane sakho kuze kube phakade.”

Bangani, abanye abantu kubukeka sengathi banayo yonke into empilweni yabo, kodwa njengo Abram masithembele kuNkulunkulu ukuze asinakekele.



*Which part of the country did Lot prefer? What was he looking for? What was the reason for the two relatives to split?*



### **Abraham meets the King of Peace. Genesis 14:1-24**

The people of Sodom were very wicked. Four kings warred with Sodom and defeated it. The victors took Lot and his family captive, but Abraham and his men went and rescued them from the enemy. As they returned from the battle they met a great king. His name was Melchizedek. He was king of Salem, which means “peace”. Melchizedek brought bread and wine to Abraham, and said, “You are greatly favoured by God most high. He delivered your enemies into your hand.” Abraham gave gifts to the King of Peace. The king of Sodom wanted to give gifts to Abraham, but he refused. He would not accept gifts from such a wicked king. However, Lot was foolish. He went to live in Sodom again.

### **15- U-Abram uhlangana Nenkosi Yoxolo (Genesis 14:1-24)**

Ngesikhathi esahlala kuleso sigodi, kwaba nempi. ULoti nomndeni wakhe kanye nabobonke abantu baseSodom baboshwa.

UAbram kanye namasosha akhe bahamba bayobakhulula.

Baqoba isitha basindisa abantu kanye nezimpahla zabo.

Sebubuya empini bahlangana nenkosi, njengoba ubona esithombeni.

Igama lenkosi uMelchizedek, Wayeyinkosi yedolobha lase Salem, okusho ukuthi “uxolo”.

Wayekhonzela uNkulunkulu weqiniso futhi emanelisa.

Waletha isinkwa newaiyini ku Abram.

Abram wakhothama phambi kuka Melchizedek wamlethela izipho.

Inkosi yase Sodom yafuna ukuletha izipho ku Abram ngokusindisa abantu, kodwa uAbram wayengeke amukele lutho enkosini engalungile.

Bangani, masibe njengo Abram singalandeli izindlela zabantu abangalungile.

Basiholela ezinkingeni nasekufeni.

Izwi likaNkulunkulu (iBhayibheli) lisifundisa ukuthi u Melchizedek ucishe afane noJesu Krestu.

Kufanele sikhonze futhi silandele inkosi uJesu, izindlela zakhe ziholela oxolweni futhi zihambisana no Nkulunkulu.

Many important events took place in Abraham’s life.

He faithfully held onto God’s promise about becoming the father of a big people.

It was such a challenge for him to hold on to God’s promise as he had no children even at a very old age. God strengthened his faith!



**Abraham counts the stars.**

*Genesis 15:1-21*

God called Abraham his friend. He said that Abraham’s descendants would always be his people. But Abraham was sad because he had no children. Then God took Abraham outside and said, “Look up and count the stars – if you can; you will have as many descendants as that.” Abraham believed the promise of God and God was pleased with him. God told Abraham again that one day his descendants would own all the land of Canaan.

**16- U-Abram nezinkanyezi** (Genesis 15:1-21) (Genesis 17:1, 5, 8, 15)

Emva kokuba u-Abram esesindise uLoti nabantu, uLoti waphindela e Sodom. UNkulunkulu wakhuluma no Abram: “Ungesabi Abram, ngiyihawu lakho (ngizokukuvikela), umvuzo wakho lowo. UNkulunkulu wabuye wathi uzomnika lelizwe ukuba aliphathe.

UNkulunkulu wayekhuluma ngezwe lase Khanana.

Kodwa uAbram wayephatheke kabi ngoba uNkulunkulu wayengamniki indodana (indlalifa).

Ngenxa yalokho uNkulunkulu wakhiphela ngaphandle wathi: Buka: zama ukubala izinkanyezi. Uzoba nesizukulwane esingaka.

U-Abram wasikholwa isithembiso sika Nkulunkulu, yize ayengakabi nazo izingane. NoNkulunkulu wayenelisekile ngo Abram.

Bangani, uNkulunkulu ufuna sikholwe futhi silalele iZwi leNcwadi yakhe, iBhayibheli.

Ngoba unuNkulunkulu soMandla ophezunkonke. Futhi sizosithola isithembiso sika Nkulunkulu, njengoba u Abram asithola.

Sizokutshela ngalokhu emva kwesikhathi



*Why was Abraham depressed? Did God tell him to do? Why was that a great comfort for him?*



**The baby Ishmael.** *Genesis 16:1-16*

Many years passed but Abraham

**17- Umntwana u Ishmael** (Genesis 16-17)

Look kulesisithombe. U Abram usenomntwana womfana.

U Abram wahlala eKhanana iminyaka eyishumi, kodwa wayesalindele isithembiso sakhe, ngoba uSarai umkakhe wayengakabi nayo ingane. USarai wayenesisebenzi u Hagar. Wayefuna ukuthi

uHagar atholele uAbram ingane bese

and his wife, Sarah, still had no children. Then one day Sarah said to Abraham, “Sleep with my maidservant. Perhaps I can have a family through her.” So Sarah’s servant, Hagar, became pregnant by Abraham. Then Sarah became jealous of Hagar and treated her cruelly. God sent his angel to comfort Hagar. He told her that she would have a son called Ishmael. Ishmael would have many children and become a great nation. (Ishmael became the father of the Arabs.) But God told Abraham, “Your wife, Sarah, will bear you a son and through him I will keep my promises to you.”



What was the name of Abraham’s wife?

Who was Hagar?

Why did Sarah suggest that Abraham should take her as a second wife?



Do you think that was what God had in mind when he promised Abraham a son?

ayithathe ingane kube eyakhe. Kwakuwusiko ngalezo zikhathi. UHagar wakhulelwa uSarai no Abram baba nomona. Wamphatha ngesihluku, waze wabaleka uHagar. Kodwa ingelosi ka Nkulunkulu yahlangana naye yamduduza. Yamtshela ukuthi uzothola indodana igama layo u Ishmael. Okusho ukuthi “uNkulunkulu uyezwa.” UNkulunkulu wathi uzombusisa uIshmael. UIshmael uzolwa nawowonke amadoda. UIshmael wazalwa kamuva waba uyise wamaArab. Emva kweminyaka eyishumi nantathu uIshmael ezelwe, uNkulunkulu wabuye wathembisa uAbram nesizukulwane sakhe izwe lase Khanana, kodwa uAbram nesizukulwane sakhe kumele balalele izwi likaNkulunkulu.

Kwathi uAbram eseminyaka engamashumi ayisishiyagalolunye nesishiyagalolunye, uNkulunkulu weza kuye wathi:

NginguNkulunkulu Somandla. Hamba phambi kwami futhi ungilalele kukonakonke okwenzayo. Ngizogcina isithembiso sami phakathi kwami nawe futhi ngenze isizukulwane sakho sibe siningi. Lesi isivumelwano sami nawe esisemthethweni. Uzoba uyise wezizwe esiningi. Ngakho-ke ngeke usabizwa ngokuthi ungu Abram. Igama lakho usungu Abraham. Ngenxa yegama elisha uNkulunkulu amnika lona, u- Abraham wayazi ukuthi uNkulunkulu uzonika isizukulwane esiningi.

UNkulunkulu wathi futhi: Izwe lonke lase Khanana ngizolinika wena nesizukulwane sakho, mina ngizoba uNkulunkulu wabo. UNkulunkulu washintsha igama lika Sarai wathi u Sarah.

UNkulunkulu wathembisa ukumbusisa bese emnika indodana.



*Which people descend from Ishmael?*

*Where do those people live in our times?*

*With which other nation are these people constantly in conflict?*

Kwesinye isikhathi, njengo Abraham no Sarah, sike sizame ukwenza izinto ngendlela yethu.

Singaletha ubuhlungu kanye nosizi kwabaningi. Kufanele simthembe uNkulunkulu, simlalele, bese simlinda ukuthi enze ngendlela yakhe.

## Three visitors come to Abraham's tent



**Sarah laughs.** *Genesis 18:1-15*

One day, when Abraham was 99 and Sarah was 90 years old, three messengers of God came to them. Sarah prepared food and Abraham gave it to them outside their tent. Then one of the messengers spoke God's words, saying, "Nine months from now, Sarah will have a son." Sarah was inside the tent and she heard him. She could not believe it, so she laughed to herself. Then God said to Abraham, "Why did Sarah laugh? Is anything too hard for the Lord?"

Just as God had promised, Sarah gave birth to a son in her old age. They called him Isaac, which means "Laughter".

**18- Usarah uyahleka** (Genesis 18:1-15)

Ngelinye ilanga (u-Abraham eseneminyaka engu 99 ubudala). Izivakashi ezintathu ezibalulekile zeza etendeni lakhe. UAbraham wabiza uSara ukuthi azobalungisela ukudla, wayesabanika yena.

Indoda yabuza uAbraham ukuthi uphi uSara, waphendula wathi usetendeni. Eyodwa yalamadoda kwabe kunguNkulunkulu uqobo lwakhe. Wathi kuAbraham "Ngizobyuya ngesikhathi esifanayo ngonyaka ozayo inkosikazi yakho uSara uzobe esenendodana." USara wakuzwa loko wahleka ngoba wayeseminyaka engu 90 yobudala. Akazange akholwe.

UNkulunkulu wakhuluma no Abraham wathi: Yini ndaba uSara ahleke futhi athi angamthola kanjani umntwana ngoba usemdala?

Ikhona yini into enzima kuNkulunkulu?

USara uzothola indodana.

## Lord, please spare the city where Lot lives!



### Abraham prays for Sodom.

*Genesis 18:16 – 19:29*

God decided to destroy Sodom because the people were so wicked. He told Abraham what He was going to do. Abraham remembered Lot and said, “Will you destroy the innocent with the wicked?” Abraham pleaded with God to save Sodom, so God told him, “If I find ten people in the city who obey Me, I will not destroy it.” The messengers of God went down to Sodom, but the only righteous person there was Lot. The messengers warned Lot to escape from the city. Then God sent fire from Heaven. Sodom was completely destroyed. Only Lot and his two daughters were saved.



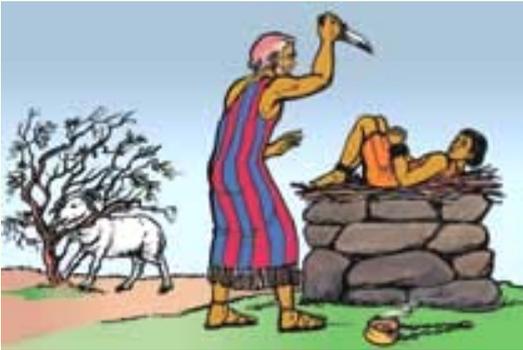
*Why was it important for Abraham to rescue Sodom?*

### 19- UAbraham uthandazela Isodoma (Genesis 18:16 – 19:29)

Lapha sibona uAbraham nezithunywa ezintathu. UNkulunkulu wayehlela ukubhubhisa iSodoma ne Gomora ngoba abantu balapho babenza ukungcola phambi kuka Nkulunkulu. Base belahle uhlelo luka Nkulunkulu olungcwele lobudlelwane phakathi komuntu wesilisa nowesifazane. UAbraham wakhumbula uLothi wayesethi kuNkulunkulu: Uzobhubhisa aboni nabalungile? ANgeke umahluleli wasemhlabeni ahlulele kahle? UAbraham wancenga uNkulunkulu ukuthi asindise iSodoma.

Ekugcineni uNkulunkulu wathi ubengeke ayibhubhise iSodoma ukube bekunabantu abayishumi akade benza umsebenzi wakhe. Kodwa bekungekho ngisho abayishumi akade bemsebenzela eSodoma. Zathi izithunywa zika Nkulunkulu zifika eSodoma zabona ukonakala kubantu. Ukuphela komuntu owayelungile lapho kwabe kungu Loti. Izithunywa zatshela uLoti ukuthi yena nomndeni wakhe, abaphume baphele eSodoma banaqlinge babheke emuva. UNkulunkulu wathumela umlilo ovela ezulwini waya eSodoma nase Gomora, kwathi bonke aboni ababehlala khona babhujiswa bafa. Ngesikhathi uLoti nomndeni wakhe sebehamba unkosikazi wakhe wabheka emuva wase ephenduka isiduli sikasawoti. UAbraham wancenga uNkulunkulu ukuthi asindise abalungile. Kwaba uLoti namadodakazi akhe amabili kuphela abasinda.

## The toughest test of all



### **Abraham's sacrifice.** *Genesis 21:1 – 22:19*

Abraham's son Isaac, grew to be a young man. Then God tested Abraham. God said to him, "Take your only son Isaac, and offer him as a sacrifice to Me." Abraham trusted God so much that he obeyed Him. He knew that God could even raise Isaac to life again. Just as Abraham was about to kill Isaac, God spoke to him, "Abraham, don't harm the boy. Now I know that you put me first. You have not kept back your only son from Me." Then Abraham saw a sheep caught in a bush. Instead of his son he killed the sheep as a sacrifice to Him.



*Did Abraham trust God? How do you know?*

### **20- Umnikelo KaAbraham** (Genesis 21:1 – 22:19)

Eseneminyaka engu 90 uSara wathola ingane njengoba uNkulunkulu ayethembise uAbraham.

Bamngqamba bathi uIsaka, okusho ukuthi wahleka. Ngesikhathi uIsaka esemncane uNkulunkulu wahlola uAbraham.

UNkulunkulu wayefuna ukubona ukuthi uAbraham usangamlalela yini.

UNkulunkulu wathi thatha indodana yakho uIsaka yithandayo unikele ngayo kimi njengohlatsshelo.

UAbraham wamlalela uNkulunkulu ngoba wayazi ukuth uma uNkulunkulu ebulala uIsaka angabuye amvuse aphilile.

Wamlungisa uIsaka njengomhlatsshelo kaNkulunkulu njengoba ubona esithombeni.

Ngesikhathi ephakamisa umbese ethi ubulala uIsaka ingelosi yathi kuye:

Abraham ungamlimazi umfana. Manje ngiyabona ukuthi umsaba uNkulunkulu ngoba awuzange wale nendodana yakho kimina.

UAbraham wabona ingqama ibhajwe esihlahleni. Wayithatha wanikela ngayo njengomhlatsshelo esikhundleni sendodana yakhe. UNkulunkulu wathi kuye: ngoba ulalele izwi lami, ngiyaqinisa ngithi ngizokubusisa futhi ngenxa yakho izizwe zomhlaba zizobusiswa.

## **Isaac**

II. The life of Isaac 25:19 – 26:35

The family of Isaac 25:19-34

The failure of Isaac 26:1-33

The failure of Esau 27:34-35

## A wife for Isaac



### **Old Abraham and his servant.**

*Genesis 24:1 – 25:26*

When Abraham was very old, he called his servant and said, “Go back to my country and find a wife for my son, Isaac.” Abraham did not want Isaac to leave the land of Canaan or to take a wife from the evil Canaanite women. So the servant made a promise and obeyed Abraham, and God led the servant straight to Abraham’s relatives. There he found a beautiful wife for Isaac. Her name was Rebekkah. Isaac and Rebekkah had a son called Jacob (or Israel). He became the father of the great nation of Israel. The people of Israel still live in the land which was Canaan. From Israel came One who brings blessings to the whole world.



*Why was it important that Isaac got a wife from Abraham’s family?*

### **21- UAbraham nesisebenzi sakhe**

(Genesis 24:1 – 25:26)

Ngesikhathi uAbraham esekhulile kakhulu wabiza izisebenzi zakhe wathi: Ngithembiseni ukuthi nizophindela ezweni lami nasezihlotsheni zami niyotholela indodana yami umakoti. UAbraham wayengafuni ukuthi uIsaka ashiye izwe uNkulunkulu ayemthembise lona, noma athathe unkosikazi eKhanana. Isisebenzi samlalela uAbraham sahamba saya ezweni lase Nahor.

Lapho wacela uNkulunkulu ukuthi amgade, ukuze athole inkosikazi kaIsaka. Intombazane enhle igama layo lingu Rebecca yaqhamuka endolobheni ukuzokha amanzi emthonjeni. Yayijabule ukuzokhelela isisenzi sika Abraham kanye namakameli akhe ayishumi. Isisebenzi sazi ukuthi Unkulunkulu usiholele kulomuntu wesifazane futhi sabona ukuthi uye lo akade emfuna. Wathola ukuthi kwabe kuyindodakazi yomfowabo kabraham. Isisebenzi sandumisa uNkulunkulu ngokuphendula umthandazo waso nokuthi simholele ezihlotsheni zomphathi waso (uAbraham).

URbecca waba unkosikazi ka Isaka. UAbraham wafa eseneminyaka engu 175 ubudala. Impilo yakhe yonke wayethembele kuNkulunkulu ukugcina izethembiso zakhe, uNkulunkulu wamamukela wambusisa. UNkulunkulu usababusisa bonke labo abamthemba njengo Abraham.

## Something more about the promise God gave

From the time of Adam, Noah and Abraham many years passed before God sent his Son Jesus to fulfil the promise he had given. But it happened! Read something about it here, before we continue the Old Testament story.



**Jesus is born.** *Galatians 4:4-5;*  
*Matthew 1:18-25*

The Word of God is true. God never lies. God told Adam that He would send his chosen One to defeat Satan. He warned Noah that He would destroy those who are evil. God showed Job that He wants what is best for us, and He showed Abraham that He always keeps his promises. In this picture you can see the baby called Jesus. At just the right time He was born in the land of Israel. His mother was a virgin called Mary, who descended from Abraham and Isaac but his Father was the one true God. Jesus is the One who brings blessing to the whole world, He is the One who came to defeat Satan and bring us back to God.

**22- UJesu uzelwe** (Galathiya 4:4-5)  
(no Matewa 1:18-25)

Izwi lika Nkulunkulu liyiqiniso. UNkulunkulu ngeke awaqambe amanga. UNkulunkulu watshela uAdamu ukuthi uyothumela loyo oyohlula uSathane.

Wathembisa uNoah ukuthi uyobaqeda bonke labo abamonayo (abangalungile). UNkulunkulu wakhombisa uJobe ukuthi yena usifunela loko okuhle futhi wakhombisa uAbraham ukuthi yena uyazigcina izethembiso zakhe.

Kulesisithombe sibona umntwana obizwa ngokuthi uJesu.

Wazalwa ngesikhathi ezweni lase Israel kuqala elalibizwa ngokuthi iKhanana.

Umama wakhe uMariya owayeyisizukulwane sika Abraham no Isaka. UMariya wayeyintombi nto ngesikhathi, ezalwa uJesu.

UJesu wayengenaye uyise wenyama. UYise kwakungu Nkulunkulu oyedwa weqiniso. UJesu Nguye oletha izibuziso emhlabeni wonke, wazalelwe ukuzogcwalisa isithembiso zika Nkulunkulu, nokwehlula uSathane, nokuthi asibuyisele emva kuNkulunkulu.



### **The death of Jesus.**

*Galatians 3:13-14*

Jesus grew to be a man. He taught people the ways of God. He did many miracles to show that He came from God. But evil men would not believe Him. They killed Jesus by nailing Him to a wooden cross. A soldier pierced his side with a spear. He was really dead. Friends, God told Adam that he would die if he ate the fruit of the tree. We have all disobeyed God, and we deserve everlasting death too. But Jesus died to take our punishment. Remember how God provided a sheep for Abraham to kill instead of Isaac? God also gave his only Son to die instead of us. Remember how God said to Adam that He would send someone to defeat Satan? Satan was defeated when Jesus died for us. Now Satan's power to cause us everlasting death is finished.



*Why did God send Jesus to the earth?*

*How can the death of Jesus make a difference to us?*

**23 Ukufa Kukajesu (Galathiya 3:13-14)**  
Ngesikhathi uJesu ekhula eba indoda, (ngesikhathi ehlala emhlabeni), wafundisa abantu izindlela zikaNkulunkulu. Wenza izimangaliso eziningi ukukhombisa ukuthi Yena uvela kuNkulunkulu. Kodwa abangalungile abamkholwanga. Bambulala, ngokumbethela esiphambanweni sokhuni. Isotsha lambhoboza ohlangothini lwakhe ngomkhonto ukuqiniseka ukuthi ufe ngempela. Bangani, uNKulunkulu watshela uAdam ukuthi uzofa uma edla esihlahleni. Sonke asimlaleleni uNkulunkulu. Ngakho simelwa ukufa kwaphakade. Uzokhumbula ukuthi uNkulunkulu walungiselela uAbraham ingqama ukuba umklomelo hayi uIsaka. Ngakho wanikela ngokuphela kwendodana yakhe, uJesu afele bonke abantu ezonweni zabo. Izone zethu zasehlukana no Nkulunkulu. uJesu uyindlela ephindela ku Nkulunkulu. Khumbula ukuthi uNkulunkulu wathi uzothumela omunye ozokwehlula uSathane. Ngesikhathi uJesu efa futhi evuka kwabafuleyo wanqoba uSathane. Kulabo abathemba futhi abalandela uJesu, amandla kaSathane asenqanyuliwe. Unkulunkulu wenza isithembiso lesithembiso ku Abraham. UNkulunkulu wathi ozalweni luka Abraham zonke izizwe zomhlaba ziyosindiswa. Lesibusiso sokuhlala noNkulunkulu ingunaphakade seza ngoJesu Krestu. Futhi singathola lesibusiso (lolusizo) kuNkulunkul, uma sithembele kuJesu Krestu simlalela.



**Jesus is alive!** *John 20:19-29*

The dead body of Jesus was put in a grave, but on the third day He came alive again! He appeared to his friends. But one of them called Thomas was not there. Later they said to Thomas, “We have seen the Lord!” but he would not believe them. Then Jesus appeared to them all again. He showed Thomas the nail marks in his hands and the spear wound in his side. Jesus said to Thomas, “Stop doubting and believe. How happy are those who believe without seeing Me.” Friends, let us not be like Thomas who doubted God. Let us be like Abraham who believed God’s promises. It is by having faith in Jesus that we can know God and receive everlasting life with Him.



*Give examples of doubt and faith that you have experienced.*

**24- UJesu uyaphila** (John 20:19-20)

Abangani baka Jesu bangwaba umzimba Wakhe engcwabeni. Waba sengwabeni izinsuku ezintathu. Emva kwaloko wavuka kwabafileyo (engcwabeni) ukufa ngeke kumvimbele uJesu, Yena yedwa ovela kuNkulunkulu.

UJesu wazibonakalisa ephila kubafundi bakhe. Bonke bamangala.

Oyedwa umfundi, uThomasi wayengekho ngesikhathi eza kubo.

UThomasi wathi kubo: Uma ngingaboni zimbobo zezipikili ezandleni zakhe futhi ngingeke ngifake izandla zami ohlangothini lwakhe ngeke ngikholwe.

Emva kwesonto, uJesu wazibonakalisa futhi. Buka esithombeni. UJesu wakhombisa uThomasi izimbobo zezipikili ezandleni Zakhe wayesemtshela ukuthi afake izandla ohlangothini lwakhe. “Yeka ukungabaza ukholwe”, kusho uJesu.

UJesu wabuye wathi: Bayajabula labo abakholwa bengabonanga.

Bangani, masingabi njengo Thomas owangabaza uNkulunkulu. Masifane no Abraham owakholwa

izethembiso zika Nkulunkulu futhi.

Ukumazi uNkulunkulu ukuthemba nokulalela uJesu Krestu bese uthola isipho Sokuphila noNkulunkulu ingunaphakade.

## Conclusion

This book has introduced you to the story about how God created everything.

Remember that God had a purpose for what He did. He wanted to have fellowship with man. He even gave man a free will (the possibility to choose for himself).

Man listened to the ideas from the evil one (Satan / the snake) instead of fully to trust God.

Disobeying God is what the Bible calls sin. Sin always leads to punishment and consequences. And eventually sin leads to death.

God so loved the world (and mankind) that He made a plan for salvation. He sent his own Son, Jesus Christ, to die in our place.

What a great love from God! And what an act of love and compassion from Jesus!

Whoever believes that his/her sins are forgiven through the death of Jesus will be saved! That happens by feeling sorrow (to regret one's sins and turn away from them) and by expressing to God that you believe in Jesus and want Him to be your Lord (that means to follow and obey whatever He says).

### **If you are not saved, you can receive Jesus today!**

We can receive God's forgiveness in a simple way. Just pray this simple prayer based on three simple words:

### **Sorry – Please – Thank you.**

*“Lord, I see I am a sinner. I am so sorry about that.  
Please Lord, forgive my sins, and be my master in future.  
Thank you for your salvation in Jesus Christ.”*

We urge you strongly to continue discovering the Bible and the love of God. There are still another 7 books left in this series.

The next is about the “Mighty men of God.”